



Attorney Docket No. 49386 CIP (71995)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS Allen Carl, et al. EXAMINER: Priddy, Michael B.
U.S.S.N.: 10/019,265 GROUP: 3732
FILED: November 13, 2001 Conf. No. 1326
FOR: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FIXATION

RECEIVED
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Fee A Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 3, 2003.

By: William J. Daley, Jr.

William J. Daley, Jr.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

The following is in response to the Office Action mailed August 1, 2003, in the above referenced application.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required since this response is being filed before the expiration of the specified time period. Applicants, however, conditionally petition for an extension of time to provide for the possibility that such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked and is required. As provided below charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 for any required fee.

11/06/2003 SPENB0B1 00000006 10019265
288.00 OP
172.00 OP
01 FC:2202
02 FC:2201

Applicant: Allen Carl, *et al.*
U.S.S.N.: 10/019,265
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
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Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to Specification begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 19 of this paper.